

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 SS-15

SP-02 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 /072 W

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O P 232200Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6327

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7465

DEPT FOR S/NM AMBASSADOR VANCE

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNARCO

SUBJECT: INCREASED NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE

REF. BOGOTA 7051

1. ACCOMPNIED BY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, I MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL LOMBANA, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF OF JOINT STAFF GENERAL MATALLANA (UNTIL RECENTLY DAS CHIEF). I WENT OVER THE POINTS CONTAINED IN STATE 146051 AND STRESSED THE URGENCY OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON THE USE OF FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE BY AUG 31. FOR THEIR PART, GENERALS LOMBANA AND MATALLANA REITERATED A WIDE RANGE OF DIFFICULTIES, RESERVATIONS AND PROBLEMS THAT THEY PERCEIVED IN OUR PROPOSAL (STATE 090271). I EXPLAINED AGAIN THAT OUR PROPOSAL WAS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION, THAT IN ANY CASE WE VIEWED IT ONLY AS AN OPENER FOR A PROGRAM THAT COULD BE EXPANDED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE AND THROUGH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE IN FY 77, AND THAT WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM
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THE COLOMBIAN SIDE PROVIDED IT INTAILED A CONCRETE PLAN OF ACTION

AND NOT SIMPLY A SHOPPING-LIST FOR EQUIPMENT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, I UNDERLINED THAT WE WERE NOT INSISTING ON HELICOPTER OPERATION BY A LOCAL CIVILIAN COMPANY AND WERE

PREPARED TO ASSIGN THEM TO THE AIR FORCE IF THE GOC PREFERRED. LOMBANA SEVERAL TIMES ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION OF RESTRICTION AGAINST USE OF HELICOPTERS FOR ANTI-GUERRILLA AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND I STRESSED THAT THIS PROHIBITION COULD NOT BE ALTERED.

3. AFTER LOMBANA AND MATALLANA AIRED FURTHER PROBLEMS AND OBSTACLES THAT THEY PERCEIVED, I STRESSED AGAIN THE NEED FOR AVOIDING THE LOSS OF THE FY 76 FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE TO US. I ASKED WHETHER THEY WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO MY NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS FOR EXPANDED ASSISTANCE

WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE AND CUSTOMS SO AS TO AVOID SUCH A LOSS AND I POINTED OUT THAT WE WOULD STILL BE IN A POSITION TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH THE MINISTRY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AND PERHAPS NEGOTIATE AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SOMETIME ON THE FUTURE WHEN THE GAP IN OUR TWO APPROACHES MIGHT HAVE NARROWED. BOTH LOMBANA AND MATALLA SAID THEY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO MY NEGOTIATING SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND I SENSED A CERTAIN RELIEF ON THEIR PART IN GETTING OFF THE HOOK IN THIS MANNER. MATALLANA IN FACT SAID THAT I SHOULD NOT FORGET THE DAS IN THIS CONNECTION.

4. LOMBANA EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE HE HAD NO DIRECT AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONAL POLICE ORDINARILY, ONLY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HIMSELF COULD GIVE ME THE GREEN-LIGHT FOR GOING AHEAD WITH AN EXPANDED ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE POLICE. LOMBANA INDICATED HE WOULD FACILITATE AN APPOINTMENT FOR ME WITH THE MINISTER WHICH I EXPECT WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY OR TUESDAY, JULY 26 OR 27. I TOLD LOMBANA THAT I WOULD ALSO COORDINATE WITH THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND THAT I HAD ALREADY FIXED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON WEDNESDAY JULY 28 AT WHICH TIME I WOULD ACQUAINT HIM WITH THE STATE OF PLAY AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED IN PARA THREE ABOVE.

5. IN SUM, I THINK THAT WITHOUT CLOSING THE DOOR COMPLETELY ON CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN NARCOTICS CONTROL IN THE FUTURE, THE WAY IS BEING OPENED FOR SIGNIFICANT, EXPANDED PROGRAMS WITH ONE OR MORE COLOMBIAN AGENCIES WHICH ARE EXPERIENCED AND

ALREADY DEEPLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS AND WHICH ARE (UNLIKE THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AT PRESENT) RARING TO GO WITH US. I SHOULD ADD THAT MY MEETING WITH LOMBANA AND MATALLAN WAS CORDIAL AND BUSINESS-LIKE AND, I THINK ON BOTH SIDES, WITH ANY UNPLEASANT

AFTER-TASTE.
DREXLER

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